

## Minutes of Bute BID Board Meeting

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Location:** Bute Fabrics 5.30pm

**Attendees:** John Glen (JG)  
Duncan Martin (DM)  
Erin Murphy (EM)  
Ian McCulloch (IM)  
Reeni Kennedy-Boyle (RKB)  
Fergus Murray (FM) online  
Kirsty Durrant (KD) online  
Luke Winter (LW)  
DL Gordon (DLG)

**Apologies for Absence:** Alistair Forsyth and Sophie Reid

**Declarations of Interest:** None

### Matters Discussed

### Action

**1. Minutes of previous meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025:** Approved

**2. Presentation by Luke Winter**

Local artist, Luke Winter, presented on four public art projects he would like BID to collaborate on, which would make our streetscape fun, and provide social, cultural, and economic benefits.

**LW and JG left the meeting at 6.00pm**

**3. Update from Argyll & Bute Council:**

**RURAL GROWTH DEAL** – signing this week in Bute Yard with Secretary of State for Scotland, Ian Murray, who had never been to Bute but intends to come back. Also, Deputy First Minister, Kate Forbes, who was also impressed.

**COMMUNITY REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP** – the Secretary of State for Scotland is the man who'll decide which projects will benefit from that. FM spoke to him at length about the Royal Hotel and the opportunities there. Civil Servants from the UK government have also been on Bute looking at the building.

**ALBERT PIER** – still awaiting demolition but doesn't think it'll take a long time to do. Looking at further funding to develop the space for car parking and coach parking, which is the priority for the local people.

**ROTHESAY PAVILION** – interior fitting begins on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Forming a group to help support the charity and get things animated and make it the best it can be for local businesses and the community.

**VISITOR LEVY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2024** – 16 people attended the drop-in session on Bute. The consultation ends on 10<sup>th</sup> April, and they are then commissioning an independent consultant to look at the findings before a final decision is taken. They're looking to extend the decision period.

**BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANTS** – KD to follow up with DLG.

**PUTTING GREEN** – out for tender and there is a discussion about improving the Putting Green alongside installing the new playpark. **KD and DLG**

**ROTHESAY PLAYPARK** – DLG has created the Purchase Order and is looking for DLG and RKB assistance creating a short form contract. RKB volunteered.

**4. Marketing Plans and Budgets**

**DLG and BOARD**

DLG presented the budget available and various marketing options: continued membership of WAA; reprinting Rothesay maps; Direct Distribution leaflets; Direct Distribution Glasgow maps; M8 banner; Glasgow Central Station, and outsourced Digital Marketing. IM is against the M8 option and suggested the Glasgow Underground. DM suggested looking into joint initiatives with Wemyss Bay Station. RKB suggested putting digital marketing out to tender on the island in the first instance. EM pointed out that Destination Marketing requires someone who specialises in that area. We need five Directors to agree to the spend and so will put it to a vote over email.

#### **5. Maintenance Agreement / Gardening Scope of Work**

DLG met with Tom Murphy to discuss the Maintenance Agreement between BID and the Council, which needs to be signed off. RKB suggested asking for the schedule of what the Council are doing. Levy payers should only be asked to pay for things that the Council will not be doing otherwise.

**DLG**

#### **6. Waste Ground on Gallowgate**

Two businesses have contacted DLG about doing something with this space, including providing seating. RKB, EM, and FM explained the Land Registry is very complicated and there's a process to go through to prove that a site is truly abandoned. It was felt it's not BID's responsibility to do any of that and if we fund a project that then has to be dismantled, the money will have been wasted. There is also concern that there would be no appropriate storage space if we provide moveable tables and chairs. Some owners of this ground have been identified, including the Council.

**FM left the meeting at 6.30pm**

#### **7. Levy Complaint**

A complaint has been received from a business who have received a retrospective levy bill for their previous premises. Since they didn't know they were part of BID, they didn't get involved in any BID schemes and don't feel they should have to pay for a service they haven't received. The Board decided the levy should stand since it's the landlord at fault for not informing the Council of their tenant's details. In addition, everyone gets the collective benefits of the BID.

#### **8. Membership Application**

The owner of Ghillie's Croft Cabin has applied for membership and their membership is accepted.

#### **9. HR Support**

DLG raised the issue of HR advice and support ahead of seasonal staff recruitment. The Board will meet online to discuss.

**BOARD**

#### **10. AGM**

DLG raised the issue of the AGM, which usually takes place in March. We need to contact the Accountants in the first instance to find out when the accounts will be prepared.

**DLG**

#### **11. AOCB**

RKB delivered good news about the Promenade, which has been repaired and tested and is now waiting on the final safety sign off. It should then be available for the Vintage Tractor Show this year.

RKB has joined the Board of the Pavillion and would like to engage our members to link into this project and would also like the BID to support new businesses that will feed into the project.

DLG asked if we would like to arrange an event for the VE day anniversary in May. RKB suggested checking if the British Legion have any plans.

DLG advised the comments attributed to BID in the Active Travel Report have now been removed.

**The meeting closed at 7.20pm**